

Application No. 10/822,103
Supplemental Amendment dated December 7, 2010
Reply to Office Action dated June 16, 2010

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A process for effectuating the making of pick-up or delivery appointments for aggregated shipments comprised of one or more orders of goods from multiple shippers between two or more buyers and sellers and optionally their third party providers (buyers, sellers and third party providers collectively called Partners) in a supply community which includes one or more ship locations from which goods are picked up or to which goods are delivered in aggregated shipments, the process including:

providing an internet website application that is configured and enabled to allow each ship location to individually create, configure and maintain an appointment calendar that is unique to each ship location and to allow one or more Partners to contemporaneously access the internet website application and query the appointment calendar for any ship location to determine available pick-up and delivery dock times for that ship location;

receiving from the one or more Partners appointment reservation requests for pick-up and/or delivery of aggregated shipments at any of said one or more ship locations; and

outputting a refusal or acceptance of appointment reservation requests submitted to any of said one or more ship locations.

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2. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the appointment calendar for each ship location is created, configured, and managed in such a manner as to consider and incorporate the operating hours of the ship location and the number of dock doors in operation during those hours of operation, the peak and off-peak hours of the ship location for any reason, the duration of each dock time slot, any dock time slots set aside by the ship location for any reason and thereby unavailable to the one or more Partners for requesting an appointment reservation, the lead-time required for requesting an appointment reservation of a dock time slot in the appointment calendar, and the appointment-making privileges of the one or more Partners as specified by the ship location.
3. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 2 including specifying appointment-making privileges including the privilege to request a pre-appointment, the privilege to request a repeating standing appointment, and the privilege to self-appoint appointments.
4. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 2 including allowing manual review and approval or refusal of appointment reservation requests or auto-accepting appointment reservation requests for any Partners that have not been granted self-appointing privileges after the appointment request auto-approval aging time specified by the ship location has elapsed.
5. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 2 wherein a ship location is operated by a seller or buyer or a third party service provider.
6. (Canceled)

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7. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 2 wherein at least one of the Partners is a carrier.
8. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 2 wherein at least one of the Partners is a shipper.
9. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein a Partner may query and view appointment information for any appointment reservation request and for any approved appointment reservation provided that the appointment reservation is relevant to that Partner including the entirety of a multi-Partner multi-segment tour so as to facilitate Partner collaboration in the planning of the multi-Partner shipment.
10. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 9 wherein the entirety of the multi-Partner multi-segment tour includes continuous move and multi-stop pick-up and delivery shipments.

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11. (Currently amended) A system for effectuating the [[the]] making of pick-up or delivery appointments for aggregated shipments comprised of one or more orders of goods from multiple shippers between two or more buyers and sellers and optionally their third-party service providers (buyers, sellers and third party service providers collectively called Partners) in a supply community, the system comprising:

means for one or more ship locations from which goods are picked up or to which goods are delivered to create, configure and maintain an appointment calendar that is unique to each ship location;

means for one or more Partners to contemporaneously access the appointment calendar of any ship location;

means for one or more Partners to query the appointment calendar for any ship location to determine available pick-up and delivery dock times for that ship location;

means for the one or more Partners to submit appointment reservation requests for pick-up and/or delivery of aggregated shipments at any ship location and means for any ship location to decline or accept the appointment reservation requests submitted to that ship location.

12. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the appointment calendar for each ship location is created, configured and managed in such a manner as to consider and incorporate the operating hours of the ship location and the number of dock doors in operation during those hours of operation, the peak and off-peak hours of the ship location for any reason, the duration of each dock time slot, any dock time slots set-aside by the ship location for any reason and thereby unavailable to the one or more Partners for requesting appointment reservations, the lead-time required for requesting appointment reservations of a dock time slot in the appointment calendar, and the appointment-making privileges of the one or more Partners as specified by the ship location.

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13. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the appointment-making privileges specified by each ship location include the privilege to request a pre-appointment, the privilege to request a repeating standing appointment, and the privilege to self-appoint appointments.
14. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein each ship location may elect to manually review and approve or decline the appointment reservation requests and to auto-accept the appointment reservation requests for any Partners that have not been granted self-appointing privileges by that ship location after the appointment request auto-approval aging time specified by the ship location has elapsed.
15. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 12 wherein a ship location is operated by a seller or buyer or a third party service provider.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein at least one of the Partners is a carrier.
18. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein at least one of the Partners is a shipper.
19. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein a Partner may query and view appointment information for any appointment reservation request and for any approved appointment reservation provided that the appointment reservation is relevant to that Partner including the entirety of a multi-Partner multi-segment tour to facilitate Partner collaboration in the planning of multi-Partner shipments.

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20. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the entirety of the multi-Partner multi-segment tour includes continuous move and multi-stop and delivery shipments.
21. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the appointment-making privileges include the privilege to request a pre-appointment, the privilege to request repeating standing appointments, and the privilege to self-appoint appointments;
a ship location may manually review and accept and reject the appointment requests or auto-accept the requests after a location-specified appointment request auto-approval aging time has elapsed;
a ship location is owned by a seller, buyer or a third party service provider;
at least one Partner is a carrier or a shipper, a Partner may query and view appointment information for any appointment reservation request and for any approved appointment reservation provided that the appointment reservation is relevant to that Partner including the entirety of a multi-Partner multi-segment tour so as to facilitate Partner corroboration in the planning of the multi-Partner shipment; and
the entirety of the multi-Partner multi-segment tour includes continuous move and multi-stop pick up and delivery shipments.
22. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the appointment calendar for each ship location is created, configured, and managed in such a manner as to consider and incorporate an appointment reservation request auto-approval aging time.
23. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the appointment calendar for each ship location is created, configured, and managed in such a manner as to consider and incorporate an appointment reservation request auto-approval aging time.

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24. (New) The process of claim 1 comprising receiving from the one or more Partners appointment reservation requests for pick-up and/or delivery of aggregated truckload shipments at any of said one or more ship locations.
25. (New) The system of claim 11 comprising means for the one or more Partners to submit appointment reservation requests for pick-up and/or delivery of aggregated truckload shipments.
26. (New) A process for effectuating the making of pick-up or delivery appointments for an aggregated truckload shipment comprised of one or more orders of goods between two or more buyers and sellers and optionally their third party providers (buyers, sellers and third party providers collectively called Partners) in a supply community which includes one or more ship locations from which goods are picked up or to which goods are delivered in aggregated shipments, the process including:
- providing an internet website application that is configured and enabled to allow each ship location to individually create, configure and maintain an appointment calendar that is unique to each ship location and to allow one or more Partners to contemporaneously access the internet website application and query the appointment calendar for any ship location to determine available pick-up and delivery dock times for that ship location;
 - receiving from the one or more Partners appointment reservation requests for pick-up and/or delivery of aggregated truckload shipments at any of said one or more ship locations; and
 - outputting a refusal or acceptance of appointment reservation requests submitted to any of said one or more ship locations.

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27. (New) The process as claimed in claim 26 wherein the appointment calendar for each ship location is created, configured, and managed in such a manner as to consider and incorporate the operating hours of the ship location and the number of dock doors in operation during those hours of operation, the peak and off-peak hours of the ship location for any reason, the duration of each dock time slot, any dock time slots set aside by the ship location for any reason and thereby unavailable to the one or more Partners for requesting an appointment reservation, the lead-time required for requesting an appointment reservation of a dock time slot in the appointment calendar, and the appointment-making privileges of the one or more Partners as specified by the ship location.
28. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27 including specifying appointment-making privileges including the privilege to request a pre-appointment, the privilege to request a repeating standing appointment, and the privilege to self-appoint appointments.
29. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27 including allowing manual review and approval or refusal of appointment reservation requests or auto-accepting appointment reservation requests for any Partners that have not been granted self-appointing privileges after the appointment request auto-approval aging time specified by the ship location has elapsed.
30. (New) The system as claimed in claim 27 wherein a ship location is operated by a seller or buyer or a third party service provider.
31. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27 wherein at least one of the Partners is a carrier.
32. (New) The process as claimed in claim 27 wherein at least one of the Partners is a shipper.

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33. (New) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein a Partner may query and view appointment information for any appointment reservation request and for any approved appointment reservation provided that the appointment reservation is relevant to that Partner including the entirety of a multi-Partner multi-segment tour so as to facilitate Partner collaboration in the planning of the multi-Partner shipment.
34. (New) The process as claimed in claim 33 wherein the entirety of the multi-Partner multi-segment tour includes continuous move and multi-stop pick-up and delivery shipments.